

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

- 1-9. (Cancelled)
10. (previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 18 further comprising a chelating agent.
11. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 10 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid, diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.
12. (previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 18 further comprising a surfactant.
13. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 12 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of poloxomers, poloxamines, octoxynol, hydroxylated castor oil, and tyloxapol.
14. (previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 18 further comprising a tonicity agent.
15. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 14 wherein said tonicity agent is sodium chloride.
16. (previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 18 further comprising a viscosity modifying agent.
17. (original) The aqueous solution of claim 16 wherein said viscosity modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of lecithin, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, and methylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone.
18. (currently amended) An aqueous solution for disinfecting a contact lens, comprising: from 0.1 to 10 ppm of a microbicide selected from the group consisting of polyhexamethylene biguanide and alexidine; and 0.001 to 0.2 mol/L of 1,3-bis(tris[hydroxylmethyl] methylamino)propane or a salt thereof as buffering agent, wherein the aqueous solution buffered by 1,3-bis(tris[hydroxylmethyl] methylamino)propane is characterized by having a disinfecting efficacy that is at least 1.0 log of

reduction greater than a disinfecting solution containing the same amount of the microbiocide but buffered with a phosphate buffer, wherein said solution ~~has a adjusted~~ pH of 6.8 to 7.5.